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February 17, 2004 LB 834, 858, 963

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. LB 963 is a combination of three bills--LB 834, LB 858, and LB 963. These bills were all heard in the committee separately, and the committee, in reviewing them, decided to combine them and make them a committee priority. As I said, these bills were heard separately in the committee, because...but because they all dealt with the National Guard and various issues involving the National Guard, they decided to combine them into one bill. LB 834 provides an officer or enlisted person of the National Guard who is called to active duty within the state of Nebraska in excess of 30 days is entitled to reimbursement of his or her private insurance that they have to pay between the time that they leave their job to participate in National Guard activities. This is no...is not an expense to the state of Nebraska. It's a reimbursement from the federal government for this insurance that they have to pay themselves and then can file for a reimbursement for the money that they spend for their...to keep their health insurance intact. LB 858 merely expands who's eligible to serve as an Adjutant General in the Nebraska National Guard. And LB 963 is...allows a National Guard soldier who performs state active for 31 days or more, and they have a protection offered under the Civil Relief Act. I would allow Senator Schimek to have some of my time to further explain the different bills, if you'd like, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. This was a review, and you did review it, so I think now, Senator Vrtiska, we'll open it up for discussion.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. It is now open for discussion, LB 963. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members. I turned my light on because I sensed that there were no lights on, and I know that Senator Chambers and Senator Vrtiska are having a conversation. I didn't want it to go by without having Senator Chambers have the opportunity to have some time. So Senator Chambers, did you wish to have a discussion? I know